

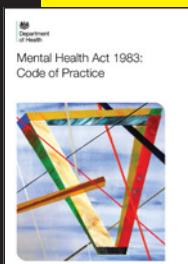


Department
of Health

An easy read fact sheet

Leaving the ward

This fact sheet tells you about leaving the hospital ward where you are detained.



Know your rights

The Mental Health Act
Code of Practice

Leaving the ward

Key facts

- * **Leave** means being able to leave the ward you are detained on
- * There are different kinds of Leave and sometimes you might have to go with staff
- * You may be given Leave in the hospital grounds or the local community
- * Your Leave is decided by your Responsible Clinician
- * Your **Independent Mental Health Advocate** can help you understand this.



Can I go out if I am detained?

- Your Leave is decided by your Responsible Clinician. Leave is also called **Section 17 Leave**
- If you are detained in a hospital you can be allowed out. This is called **'leave of absence'**.



There are different types of leave.

You could be allowed to:

- Leave the ward for a short time, to go home or to do some other activity, such as going shopping.
- Go home or somewhere else with a member of staff of the hospital. This is called **'escorted leave.'**
- Go out with family or a friend to another place, such as the local shops, a place that is important to you, or their home. This is called **'accompanied leave.'**



How long can I be out?

- It is up to your Responsible Clinician to decide if you are allowed to go out and how long for.



If you are detained in hospital you must have permission to go out.



If you don't have permission the police and other agencies may be called to look for you.



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Where in the code?

This easy read fact sheet comes from:

- DH Mental Health Act 1983: Code of Practice Chapter 27 'Leave of absence' page 276 and Chapter 28 'Absent without leave' page 283

Download the code:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/396918/Code_of_Practice.pdf

Download the easy read fact sheets:

www.nhs.uk/easy-mentalhealthact

Download the easy read glossary:

www.nhs.uk/glossary

More information:

Rethink

www.rethink.org/diagnosis-treatment/treatment-and-support/hospital/leaving